



Fens in the 40's: two wars in one decade
by Mike Petty

POLAND INVOKES TREATY WITH BRITAIN

'FULL-SCALE ATTACK' BY GERMAN TROOPS

Polish Towns Bombed from the Air

MOBILISATION ORDERED IN BRITAIN

POLAND HAS INVOKED THE TREATY WITH GREAT BRITAIN FOLLOWING A FULL-SCALE ATTACK BY GERMAN TROOPS AGAINST TOWNS IN THE POLISH CORRIDOR EARLY TO-DAY.

ATTACKS, IT WAS STATED, AKE ALSO BEING MADE ON UPPER SILESIA.

WARSAW, CRACOW AND KATOWICE, AMONG OTHER POLISH TOWNS, ARE REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN BOMBED FROM THE AIR.

Shortly after these reports had been confirmed by the Polish Embassy in London, the Polish Ambassador called on Lord Halifax, the British Foreign Secretary. The Ambassador told him of the attack which, he said, constituted direct aggression as provided for in the Anglo-Polish Treaty, and accordingly he invoked the Treaty.

The British Cabinet met this morning and Parliament has been summoned for this evening.

At a Privy Council this afternoon the King signed an order for complete mobilisation of the army, navy and air force.

GERMANS CROSS FRONTIER

Towns Reported Bombed

VITAL MEETINGS IN LONDON

King Signs Mobilisation



(Photo)

GAS MASK DRILL

As aeroplanes roared overhead these children were receiving instruction in the use of their gas masks at Rampton Square yesterday evening. Further details will be found on page three.

(Cambridge Daily News)

HITLER: "NO CHOICE BUT FORCE"

"No Appeal to Foreign Help"

In attacks on Poland, but if our opponent believes he will be able to fight with other means we will give him such an answer as will show him.

Whoever fought with poison gas would be fought with poison gas. The fight, no matter against whom it was fought, would be fought until Germany secured her rights.

HITLER NAMES SUCCESSOR.

"If Hitler declared, 'I now demand from German people every sacrifice, I have every right to do so. I have put on a new uniform—I shall not take it off again before we are victorious, or I will not see you and should anything happen to me'—then, to speak from with force from now on."

"WOULD SEEM TO MEAN WAR"

Britain and Hitler's Proclamation

It is pointed out in official circles in London that if the proclamation to the German people by Herr Hitler should mean, as it would seem to mean, that Germany has declared war on Poland, it can be stated on the highest authority that Great Britain and France are infinitely determined to fulfil to the utmost their obligations to the Polish Government.

The German account of the scenes of the proclamation in, of course, wholly misleading, says the statement in London.

GREATEST EVACUATION BEGINS

To-day's Scenes in London

"WORKING LIKE CLOCKWORK"

BRITAIN TO-DAY BEGAN ITS GIANT FOUR-DAY TASK OF EVACUATING 1,000,000 CHILDREN, MOTHERS, BLIND AND MAIMED FROM THE BIG CITIES OF THE LAND—AN EXODUS ON A SCALE WITHOUT PRECEDENT IN HUMAN HISTORY.

NEARLY HALF OF THE 1,000,000 ARE FROM GREATER LONDON, INCLUDING THE L.C.C. AREA.

To-day's contingent consisted exclusively of school children.

During the evacuation only skeleton services of ordinary trams and buses were run, the bulk of the National Transport system being used to rush the children to the country.

London was early astir for the great evacuation. Before dawn teachers, mothers and officials were making their way to the schools to prepare for their big task.

At one school in a poor part of East London children were told to be at the premises at 8.30 a.m., but before the gates were opened at 8.45 some were already waiting outside. While waiting to be taken to Aldgate East Station for evacuation the children pressed in conversation.

Each child whose age ranged from 5 to 15, carried a gas mask, food and a change of clothing, and bore three labels. They were given strict instructions from the head teacher: "Not to talk or eat your lunch."

"GOING VERY WELL."

Part of the War, President of the Board of Education, made a tour of a number of schools in West London accompanied by Mr. Maurice Hankey, Permanent Secretary to the Board. After the tour Lord de la Warr told a reporter: "If the arrangements at the other end for receiving the children are as good as at this end it seems well for the scheme. It seems to me from what I have seen that the average school was going very well."

The difficulty with which the children were apprehending through the arriving trains of morning workers. It was a scene of a perfect piece of organisation. They were a very cheerful crowd of youngsters, though a few had evidently shed some tears at the parting with their parents.

The trainloads were quickly made up. Every compartment had a teacher or a nurse, and many had a mother or a father. The children were packed in the compartments, and the train was off.

IN THE PROVINCES

Hundreds of thousands of children were evacuated with efficiency and dispatch from provincial cities today and taken to safety zones. With speed and accuracy the evacuation was carried out.

THE MESSAGE TO THE
OF HOLLAND
WASHINGTON
the Queen of the Netherlands
available—
CONSCRIPTION
MORRIS
able to increase
is provided for
to be introduced
afternoon—
ST CRICKET

POLAND INVOKES TREATY WITH BRITAIN



"TURNING UP TRUMPS" WITH SPADERS!—Eve, as represented by members of the Cambridge Telephone Manager's staff, leads a band at sand-bag filling.



EVACUEES ARRIVE AT CAMBRIDGE.—Week-end scenes at the Cambridge railway station during the great invasion of England by children as a result of the international upheaval.



PARADE OF LITTLE BROWN BOXES.—Youthful victors to Cambridge line up with their respirators during an expiratory tour of some of the town's beauty spots.

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Clearing Great Hospital. Overhead coaches, one of them still bearing the placard "In and from Radio-grams," carried them to a station on the first stage of their journey to "somewhere in the country."

Medical students in white-coats acted as stretcher-bearers when 150 patients were evacuated from the London Hospital. Sixty patients are too ill to be moved even in the event of an air raid.

The London Hospital, the largest voluntary hospital in England, has spent £150,000 on air raid precautions. They include improved operating theatres, reinforced with steel and timber protecting lavatories, and surrounded from without with sand-bags.

More than two-thirds of the hospital's 700 nurses are being shifted to the Army and Navy or to hospitals outside London.

BABIES REMOVED. Many babies were among the first batch of patients removed from Great Hospital. Some were only a few days old. The youngest probably was two-year-old Jim Duffin, whose mother, Mrs. Duffin Cox, of Dalston-road, smiled bravely through her tears.

"A triumph of co-operation" was how a London County Council official described the evacuation. Children, mothers and railway employees worked in perfect harmony.

IN THE PROVINCES. Hundreds of thousands of children were evacuated with efficiency and dispatch from provincial cities today and taken to safety zones. With speed and accuracy they were receiving a new and better environment than their own.

Towns Reported Bombed
King Signs Mobilisation

IN a proclamation to the Army today Hitler says: "I have no other choice than to start force with force from now on."

can be stated on the highest authority that Great Britain and France are indubitably determined to fulfil to the utmost their obligations to the Polish Government. The German Government of the course of the negotiations in, of course, wholly misleading," says the statement in London.



HOME MANAGEMENT CORNER

Conducted by



Our Miss Switch

NEWS BULLETIN from

WOODSIDE
THE LONG ROAD
CAMBRIDGE

CHRISTMAS, 1942

SWEETS WITHOUT SUGAR —and cakes too!

In a recent "Corner" I gave you two or three hints for saving sugar when cooking, and several readers have since written asking for suggestions for simple sugarless sweets and tea time dainties. For a moment, this seemed to me rather a "poser," but, after a good think, I was surprised to find what a number of delicious things one could make without sugar.

WAYS AND

When you are putting up after they have been with a thimble on to the end of the It will then slip through —and without a chance of which can so easily have the thimble's help.

An extra floor mop is always you can make one for practical Cut the sound parts of into squares, put about top of each other. Then through the centre and handle, and your mop is

If you've a schoolgirl daughter you have been worried stockings turning a ruin several washings. Add a malt vinegar to the rins stockings will keep the black through endless tu

Ele for rap with



This is the Benstead Home and Forces Programme. Here is the news for 1942, and this is father writing it.

It is with great regret that we have to record a further retrograde step in the family's social progress, for during the early part of the year the local authorities placed a large bin labelled PIG FOOD in front of what we must now regard as the family sty. Later, our daughter decided to enhance this new status by keeping poultry, and cleverly overcame the lack of rationed meal, which she was too late to obtain, by evolving the perpetual hen—one, that is, living on its own eggs.

To offset this increase in the family's retinue, one lodger and the maid have departed. The family, however, continues under the protection of the R.A.F. whose representative, our remaining lodger, is now truly sty-trained.

At the Perse our daughter continues to display a brilliance quite with her percentage, and has added another Fourth Form Prize to her list.

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Reg. Co. 404
(3)
COOKING FATS
Quantity authorised
for each 8-weekly
period
Cwts. Lbs.
-3- 109-
(Supplier)
HALLACH & CO. CAMBRIDGE

Reg. Co. 404
BUTTER
Quantity authorised
for each 8-weekly
period
CP. 2
(Supplier)
HALLACH & CO. CAMBRIDGE

MINISTRY OF FOOD
THE RATIONING ORDER
BUYING PERMIT
TO (HOLDER OF PERMIT):
This Buying Permit may be modified or
revoked at any time.
Headquarters Dairy Co.
66, Mill Road,
Cambridge.
1. The permit issued to you for the eight-
weekly period commencing 24 AUG 1942
and stated to be valid for successive eight-
weekly periods is hereby revoked.
2. You are hereby authorised to order and
receive quantities specified over the
eight weeks commencing 24 AUG 1942
and in respect of the following commodities:
BACON
SUGAR
EGGS
MEAT
TO BE REVOKED
This permit is valid for the period of eight weeks commencing 24 AUG 1942 and in respect of the following commodities: BACON, SUGAR, EGGS, MEAT. TO BE REVOKED

My first sweet recipe is of American origin and bears the delightful name of

BROWN BETTY

Use equal quantities of breadcrumbs and canned sliced peaches (for six people you need about 2 cups of breadcrumbs); 2 ozs. margarine melted; $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of syrup from the peaches.



Mix the crumbs and the melted margarine with a fork. Grease a

about an inch and roll them in the condensed milk. Fry in hot fat for about a minute until they are golden brown. Drain on crumpled paper and serve hot.



HONEY CAKES

8 ozs. flour; 2 ozs. margarine; 2 teaspoonfuls baking powder; 1 teaspoonful spice; 1 dessertspoonful ground ginger; a few caraway seeds; 1 cup honey;

CITY GIRLS ON THE FARM



• Photo
These London girls, members of the Women's Land Army, are
were "caught" yesterday during work.

ON BRITISH FARMS

Between 1939 and 1945 the area under the plough in the United Kingdom increased from 12,900,000 to 19,200,000 acres, and the output of food increased by over 70%. In Cambridgeshire 87% of the land was arable, and of this 95,800 acres grew potatoes and sugar beet - the priority crops. The Isle of Ely ploughed up over double the acreage requested by the Minister of Agriculture. - The Land Army did outstanding service in tackling war-time drainage problems.





TO MAKE
NEW PAPER

Daily News

USE GAS
MATCHES,
AUTOMATIC PISTOLS,
POKERS.
SEE THEM AT YOUR
GAS SHOWROOMS,
52, SIDNEY STREET.

Vol. LI. No. 16,081

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 1940

[REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION] Price ONE PENNY

GERMANS SUFFER ENORMOUS LOSSES

**River Meuse
Crossed at
Three Points
BIG BATTLE STILL
RAGING**

**Fierce Counter Attack
by Allies**

**APPALLING LOSSES ARE BEING
INFLECTED ON THE GERMANS, AS
HITLER'S GENERALS, OBEYING HIS
DESPERATE ORDER TO SMASH THE
WEST AT A BLOW, ARE HURLED IN
MASSES INTO BATTLE.**

The Germans have crossed the Meuse south of Sedan and north of Dinant. The situation is grave, according to the French War Ministry spokesman, but the battle may last for days and is "proceeding normally."

This is the position to-day, second day of the most terrible battle the world has ever



[Photo]

[Cambridge Daily News]

RUSH TO JOIN DEFENCE CORPS

There was a very encouraging response at Cambridge to-day to the War Minister's appeal for the formation a Local Defence Volunteer Corps to counteract possible activities in this country of German parachutists. Here are some of the many who volunteered during the day. Story on Page Five.

**NEW DUTCH ARMY
BEING FORMED**

**GERMANS IN THE
HAGUE**

**GREAT WORK BY
R.A.F.**

**Bridges and Tanks
Destroyed**

**35 OF OUR MACHINES
LOST**

BRITISH 'planes are playing a great part in the historic battle of the Meuse.

Yesterday they destroyed two permanent bridges and two pontoon bridges, attacked enemy troops and tanks and shot down at least 15 German machines.

Our losses—not considered excessive—were 35 aircraft, but some of the crews are safe.

The full Air Ministry bulletin issued to-day was as follows:

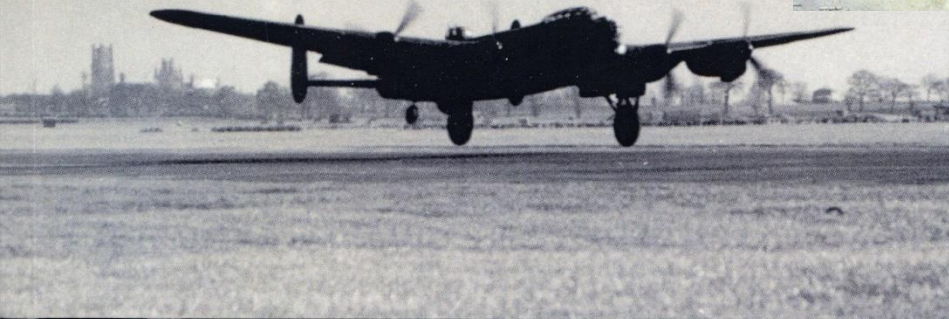
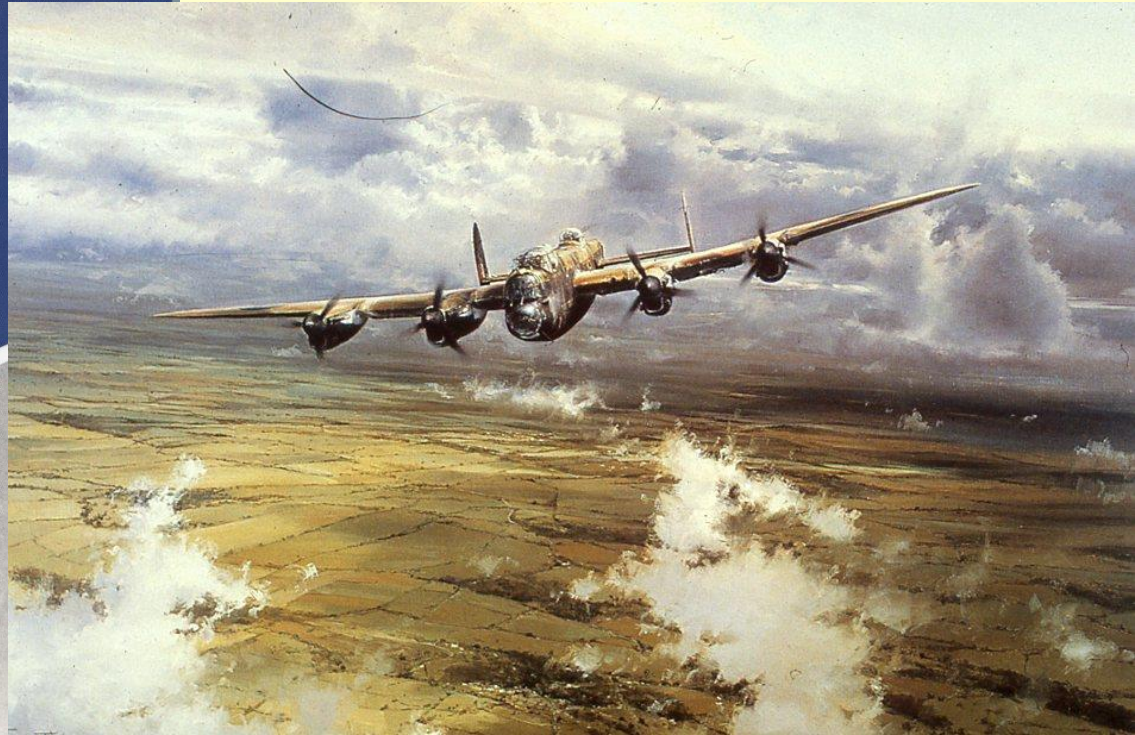
"In a great battle which developed at Sedan and the crossings of the Meuse yesterday, R.A.F. bombers, escorted by fighters, went in to action in co-operation with the French forces.

Repeated low flying attacks on enemy troops and tank concentrations were made. These were highly successful and valuable



Memories of RAF Witchford

Barry & Sue Aldridge



TING
BLOCKS

COST
LESS

al in Cambridge
e INCREASED
age Rates.

G DEPARTMENT
e Daily News"
one 4247

IN HUNTS.
Unstable Reports
decrease

the Chief Constable (Capt. who has had to attend a court-martial at Cambridge, the vacancy was presented by the Chief Constable at the Standing Joint Committee. The committee stated that during the last year, the number of offences were reported compared with the corresponding year. There was a decrease in the number of offences reported.

FLOUR

JOYGIRL 50% All Next
Cash Bonus Week

Daily News

ADVICE IS FREELY GIVEN ON
ALL FOOD PROBLEMS,
PREPARATION AND COOKING
AT YOUR
GAS SHOWROOMS,
52, SIDNEY STREET.

Vol. LII. No. 16,111

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 1940

[REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION] Price ONE PENNY

12 KILLED IN BIG RAIDS ON ENGLAND

100 German Bombers Engaged

7 BROUGHT DOWN BY R.A.F.
AND A.A. FIRE

Approach in Relays

TWELVE CIVILIANS, INCLUDING FIVE CHILDREN, WERE KILLED, AND MANY OTHERS INJURED, AS GERMANY OPENED ITS DIRECT WAR ON BRITAIN DURING THE NIGHT WITH EXTENSIVE RAIDS OVER EASTERN ENGLAND.

NINE OF THESE PEOPLE WERE KILLED WHEN BOMBS HIT A ROW OF HOUSES IN A TOWN IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

It is learned authoritatively in London that about 100 German machines took part in the raids.

R.A.F. fighters and anti-aircraft batteries sprang to Britain's defence.

Seven enemy bombers are known to have been brought down. Five

BRITISH TRADE FIGURES

ITALIAN COLUMN ROUTED

British Tanks Success

CAIRO, Wednesday.

SOME 20 or 30 Italians are believed to have been killed and a number wounded when a motor transport column, escorted by light tanks, was routed by a British armoured unit on Monday, it was officially reported here to-day.

Several prisoners were taken. The Italian column is estimated to have included four guns and 300 infantry in vehicles.

There were no British casualties. The superior armament of our tanks is said to have so demoralised the enemy that some of the Italians jumped out of their tanks—with disastrous results to themselves.

It is officially stated here that the lack of positive results attained by Italian air action in the past few days has been due to the deterrent effect of anti-aircraft batteries of the Egyptian Army.

BELGIAN ROYAL CHILDREN

On Their Way to

Hitler Demands "Complete Capitulation"

—ROME REPORT

French Told to Appoint Armistice Plenipotentiaries

CAPITULATION pure and simple is Hitler's terms for a French armistice, according to a Basle report to the official Italian news agency.

The general lines of a dictated peace were annexed to the German reply to Marshal Pétain, it is stated.

The French Cabinet met this morning to consider this reply, and in a communique afterwards stated that Germany had said that it was ready to inform France of its armistice terms when plenipotentiaries had been appointed.

This has been done. The Cabinet communique added: "The Reich Government will make

known the date and place for the reception of these plenipotentiaries."

FRENCH ARMY CONTINUES RESISTANCE.

It was announced on the French radio this morning that the French Army was continuing its resistance and the official French communique states that the enemy has not made any important advances since last night.

FRENCH NAVAL UNITS AND PLANES.

According to information in Madrid, virtually all French naval units left French ports during yesterday.

French aeroplanes are reported to be flying over the Spanish coast, and the Spanish Press to have been sighted on their way to Africa, to avoid falling into German hands.

FRENCH EMPIRE'S "ATTITUDE OF RESISTANCE."

"Our honour remains and so does our Empire—60,000,000 people of the vast territories which have been freed from long servitude by our genius and civilisation," declared M. Peyrou, French Resident-General in Tunis, in a broadcast to-day.

"This Empire stands in an attitude of resistance, full of courage and gratitude."

GIRLS INJURED BY SHOTS

DID NOT HALT AT BARRICADE

AIR RAIDS ON THE ISLE OF ELY

FULL STORY OF SOME 137 INCIDENTS IN THE COUNTY

Damage Comparatively Light: Nine Persons
Killed, 83 Injured

WE are now able to reveal the full story of air raids which have occurred in the Isle of Ely from the outbreak of war to February of this year. In publishing the record we acknowledge the

Details of the Raids 1940.

June 19th, 12.10 a.m., eight high explosives at West-fen, Ely, one hut damaged and one person received fatal injuries, 13 head of cattle killed; 12.20 a.m., 10 h.e. in vicinity of St. John's-road, Ely, and Millpits, Ely, windows a stitution and John's-road br h.e. near Old and on Chap

January 18th, 2-31 p.m., machine-gunning at Little Thetford.

February 4th, 8-5 p.m., enemy air-

Aug. 25th, 10.15 p.m., 1 i.b. at Red Hill-drove, Stretham.

Bridge-lane, Redmoor-lane and

Sept. 20th, about 9.5 p.m., 10 i.b. and 2 h.e. in a potato field on Grange Farm, Stretham.

Nov. 1st, 6.50 a.m., 19 h.e. on and round beet sugar factory at Queen Adelaide, Ely, factory and other premises damaged, 18 employees injured.

Oct. 6th, 2.5 a.m., 4 h.e. and 1 oil bomb in field on Box Farm, Stret-ham Fen.

Nov. 13th, 7.50 p.m., 2 h.e. and 1 oil bomb at South Fen, Sutton, windows broken and one house damaged slightly; 9.8 p.m., 1 h.e. and 1 oil bomb in fields at Langwood-drove, Chatteris, two agricultural cottages slightly damaged

person killed and 13 injured.
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March 1944
**MONTY VISITS ELY
CATHEDRAL.**

AMUSED BY CHERBOYS.

GENERAL SIR BERNARD MONTGOMERY, taking a half-day
off from his extra duties, paid a visit to Ely
Cathedral on Sunday afternoon. It was expected, but
the paragon soldier was recognised as he through the
city, and a large crowd had gathered

March 1944
**MONTY VISITS ELY
CATHEDRAL.**

AMUSED BY CHERBOYS.

GENERAL SIR BERNARD MONTGOMERY, taking

"D" DAY REHEARSAL

At the Union Society in Cambridge in March 1944 a most secret rehearsal for 'D' Day in the following June was carried out with Models of Mulberry Docks, Landing Craft and Guard Ships, in the presence of Gen. D.D. Eisenhower, Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery and their chief Staff Officers. For one week the Union Society was controlled by the Army and the area closely guarded.

VERY GOOD SHOW

10000 has been collected in the past
two years by the

WOMEN'S CITIZENS No. 1
(100000 Road and District)
SAVINGS GROUP.

Mrs. F. A. Benthead has personally
collected £10,000, and the Hon. Sec., Miss
E. E. Thorne, says—"Are you amongst
the 100 members?"

Cambridge **FINAL** Daily News

FREEDOM
FOR THE
HOUSEWIFE
with **GAS**
The Modern
HOME MAKER

Vol. LVI. No. 17,600

TUESDAY, MAY 8, 1945

(REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION) PRICE 1½d.

HOSTILITIES END AT MIDNIGHT

Prime Minister's
Broadcast
CHANNEL ISLANDS FREE
TO-DAY

ALL OVER THE WORLD VE-DAY HAS EVOKED
EXPRESSIONS OF THANKFULNESS AND JOY.



King's Victory Message

THE following message has been sent
by the King to the President of
the United States:

"With the cessation of hostilities on the Continent, I hasten to send to you, Mr. President, my warmest congratulations on the attainment of victory over our common foe in Europe.

"In co-ordination with our Russian Allies, British and American, with Allied forces, advancing from west and south, under the Supreme Command of General of the Army Eisenhower and of Field-Marshal Alexander, have fulfilled their part in freeing the Continent of Europe from the horrors of German domination.

"The course of the past years and in the face of common danger and grievous losses, there has grown up between the peoples of our two countries a comradeship-in-arms of unsurpassable strength.

"I am confident that this spirit of comradeship will continue not only until Japan has been finally defeated, but also in the years to come.

"It is my earnest prayer that the day of that final victory may not be far distant."

FRIDAY. The Cambridgehire Times MAY 18, 1945.

VICTORY IN THE VILLAGES

SERVICES OF THANKSGIVING IN
CHURCHES EVERYWHERE

Few Official Celebrations Until Far East
War Is Over

THE VILLAGES in this district celebrated the victory in Europe quietly, with thanksgiving services in churches and chapels everywhere, but with few official festivities.

A large congregation assembled for a most impressive service conducted by Pastor Jackson, of denham.

A meeting was also held for a celebration from the children, a committee was formed and a highly successful evening held on Wednesday week. The kindness of local residents excellent tea was provided served to the children in the schoolroom, after which an enjoyable programme of sports was carried out in a field kind permission of Mr. E. S. The money for prizes was collected by Shirley Hostler and





THE REAL MOTOR CYCLE
AGENTS.

Place your name on our Reservation
List for a
1945 MODEL.

PREMIER GARAGE,
UNION LANE, CAMBRIDGE.
Phone Cam. 56233/5.

Cambridge Daily News

SPECIAL

O. WEHRLE

Owing to Shortage of Staff, etc., the
undermentioned Premises will be
CLOSED FOR STOCKTAKING
UNTIL MONDAY, AUGUST 13th.

3 MARKET HILL
CAMBRIDGE

Vol LVI. No. 17,680

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8, 1945

(REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION.) PRICE 1½d.

Hiroshima: A Disastrous Ruin

'ALL LIVING THINGS SEARED TO DEATH'

Tokyo Says Dead Are Uncountable

TOKYO RADIO, IN ITS FIRST REPORT OF THE
HAVOC WROUGHT BY THE ATOMIC BOMB
DROPPED ON HIROSHIMA, SAID TO-DAY THAT THE
BOMB "LITERALLY SEARED TO DEATH" ALL
LIVING THINGS, HUMAN AND ANIMAL, IN THE
TOWN.

"Those outdoors were burned to death and those indoors
killed by the indescribable pressure and heat," it was stated.

"The dead and injured were scorched
beyond recognition. The city is a
disastrous ruin, and medical authori-
ties, with many of their buildings de-
stroyed, have their hands full."

Another Tokyo broadcast said: "The
dead are simply uncountable. It is
not possible to distinguish the men
from the women among the killed."

"The power of destruction of the
A-bomb is beyond words."

11,200 Jap Casualties in Burma

THE casualties inflicted on the Jap-
anese in their attempt to break
through the Mandalay-Bangkok

BEATEN CORPORAL'S INJURIES

German Doctor's Court Story

A German doctor gave evidence for
the prosecution to-day at a military
court at Kensington, London, where
four young German prisoners have
pleaded not guilty to murdering Corpl.
Gerhardt Rettig at a camp near Shef-
field on March 24th.

He described Rettig's injuries.
Rettig, it was alleged, was set upon
by a crowd of over 300 prisoners, who,
it was stated, believed he had given
away a plot by his comrades to escape
through a tunnel.

The accused are Emil Schmitten-
dorf, Armin Kuehne, Heinz Ditzler,
and Juergen Kersting.

"FACE UNRECOGNISABLE."

The German doctor, whose rank was
equivalent to that of captain, said
that he was on duty at the camp hos-
pital when Rettig was carried in.
There were also abrasions to the head.
He was bleeding from the mouth and
nose and his face was so swollen as
to be unrecognisable.

An English civilian doctor, who con-
ducted a post-mortem examination,
said an instrument must have been
used to inflict the wounds. Rettig
could not have died from blows from
the fist. The immediate cause of
death was asphyxia from the inhaling

PETAIN'S 'CEASE FIGHTING' ORDER

Story of Message to Darlan

SIX French generals and one admiral
were down to give evidence to-
day, when the Petain trial was resumed
in Paris.

The Admiral and four of the gener-
als were taken to the court from
Fresnes Prison.

The 50-years-old Vichy Air Minister
for Air, General Bergeret, leaning
heavily on his stick, was the first wit-
ness. He said that after the Armis-
tice there were three problems facing
the Air Ministry—reorganisation of
the Air Force, measures to prevent
the Germans making use of it, and
maintenance of contact with the
British.

The Axis Armistice Control Com-
mission ordered all airfields in North
Africa to be ploughed up, but the
French Ministry ordered French set-
tlers to keep the airfields in service-
able condition.

"Petain knew about this and simi-
lar clandestine measures," said the
General.

PETAIN'S 'CATEGORICAL REFUSAL'

In 1941, there was a question of us-

French Air Force in Syria was never
his responsibility. He agreed he had
decorated French pilots who fought
against the R.A.F. in Syria and paid
homage at the tomb of French vic-
tims of British raids there.

Bergeret said Petain refused a Ger-
man offer of Stuka dive-bombers to
help the French in Syria, after he
(Bergeret) had flown to Beirut and
advised Petain not to take a decision
on this.

French airmen in Syria were firm-
ly opposed to any such collaboration,
he added.

Bergeret stated that he offered to
fly Petain to North Africa before the
Allies landed, but Petain said he could
not leave France, as he feared for the
fate of thousands of French prisoners
of war.

SECRET ALLIED SIGNAL.

On November 6th, 1941, Bergeret
said he received a secret Allied signal
informing him of the date of the
Allied landing in North Africa, and
flew at once to Algiers.

In defiance of the German armistice
conditions, the French Admiralty used
a secret wireless code, in which
Petain, on November 11th—the day
the Germans crossed the demarcation
line between occupied and unoccupied

BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT

When you can for days other than Thursday and Saturday, as we are then busy with people from the country who are only provided with dental facilities on those days.

Consult **E. S. CHAPMAN**, F.D.S.

Qualified Night-Working Optician,
City Chambers, Market St., ELY

CLOSING HOURS: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, 5.30 p.m.; Saturday, 1 p.m.; Tuesday, 8.15 a.m. till 11 a.m.

The Ely Standard

AND

CAMBRIDGESHIRE TIMES.

ATOMIC

The only sensible way to regard atomic energy is as an immense new power for good and to set about at once developing it along those lines.

It is up to us to develop OUR OWN energy as a power for the good of the community.

F. Vernon Cross, Ye Olde Tea Rooms,
FORE HILL, ELY.

No. 3811. Vol. LXXIII. Telephone: ELY 4.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 24th, 1945.

Registered at the General Post Office as a Newspaper. TWOPENCE

VICTORY FESTIVITIES IN ELY AND DISTRICT

Memorable Scenes Mark the Coming of Peace

LARGE CONGREGATIONS AT THANKSGIVING SERVICES

VICTORY CELEBRATIONS which were begun on VJ Day continued throughout the district yesterday (Thursday) week as the people, in various ways, gave vent to the great joy and relief which the coming of peace had brought.

Although there was little time to organise large-scale festivities, some wonderful efforts were achieved and they will be long remembered by those who were privileged to take part.

Sunday was thanksgiving Day and large congregations packed the various places of worship to give thanks to Almighty God for bringing the country safely through the dark days of war to peace, and to the dawn of what it is fervently hoped will be a better world.

Below are given further reports of celebrations in Ely and the villages, and of thanksgiving services.

CHILDREN'S SPORTS AT ELY

Red Letter Day for the Youngsters

Following on the successful VJ Day celebrations in Ely, with a fair for the children and dancing in the Corn Exchange and on the Market-place, the city went festive again on Thursday with further attractions for young and old.

CHILDREN'S SPORTS

An outstanding feature of the day's proceedings was a programme of children's sports on Paradise Field in the afternoon. There had been little chance to announce the event, but apparently practically every child in the city got to know of it, judging by the huge crowd which gathered. The parents were there, too, and it was a memorable day for them as well.

Flower pot race, girls any age—C Blackwell, R Garner and B Clark tied.

Jockey race, boys—1 B Greaves and S Bishop, 2 G Heavens and "Gordon Richards," 3 A Angel and R Bishop.

220 yards open race, men—1 B Greaves, 2 R Wright, 3 P Willson. Fancy Dress—Girls: 1 Judith Oakley, Halwian girl; 2 Bridget Oakley, Dutch boy; 3 M Morley, gipsy; 4 Joan Pearson, Jockey. Boys: 1 Brian Morris, John Bull; 2 Juan Morris, Commando; 3 Barry Staines, Red Indian.

Slow bicycle race—1 H A Lee, 2 G Francis, 3 D Morgan.

POPULAR DANCES

The adults had their fling again in the evening with dancing on the Market-place and in the Corn Exchange and a thoroughly enjoyable time was spent.

The outdoor event was particularly popular, affording entertainment for dancers and onlookers alike. It was all grand fun, the only jarring note being introduced by irresponsible fireworks.

On 11

and at there were w passed, Council, should be at a fu ruled b followin

The Sports of arr for the Council, a programme had answer in the negative. He then asked if the Lord Lieut. has ever been witnessed

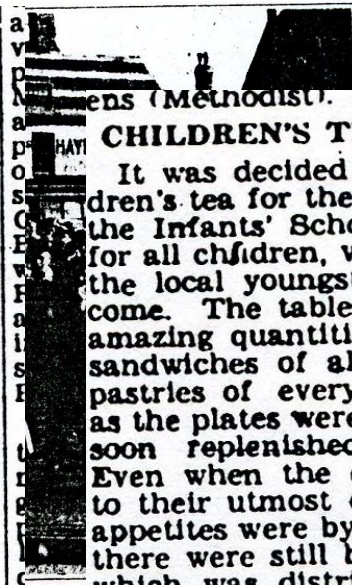
STRETHAM

Early on Wednesday morning, the first day of the VJ holiday, flags and bunting appeared on houses in every part of the village, and in several places gaily coloured streamers were stretched across the road. A victory peal was rung on the Church bells and Stretham began its plans for celebration.

Several local men have been prisoners in Japanese hands since the fall of Singapore, and hopes, tinged with some anxiety, were expressed that they would soon be home. Remembering them, and with a feeling of deep thankfulness that the final phase of the war was over, many people wended their way to the Parish Church in the evening for a service of thanksgiving, which was conducted by the lay-reader, Mr. G. Nunn. The order of service included prayers of thanksgiving to Almighty God for deliverance and for victory over the enemy. The hymns chosen were "Praise my soul the King of Heaven," "Before Jehovah's awful throne," and "Now thank we all our God."

A service held in the Baptist Chapel was jointly conducted by Mr. J. White (Baptist) and Mr. E. Stevens (Methodist).

CHILDREN'S TEA AND SPORTS



A section market Pl

the town the extr med out evening w their new could ha entirety e of the Mr. C C promptl the al tary hel that the Red-letter town. an ever of helpel filling ha

Childrens (Methodist).

CHILDREN'S TEA AND SPORTS

It was decided to arrange a children's tea for the following day, and the Infants' School was the venue for all children, visitors joining with the local youngsters—all were welcome. The tables were spread with amazing quantities of food, piles of sandwiches of all kinds, cakes and pastries of every description, and as the plates were emptied they were soon replenished by the helpers. Even when the children had eaten to their utmost capacity—and their appetites were by no means small!—there were still baskets of food left, which was distributed later in the evening. All those who hurriedly made cakes and gave from their stores to make such a meal possible deserve the highest praise, and the ladies who made the preparations are to be congratulated on the abundance provided and the efficient organisation in the short time at their disposal. They were: Mrs. H. Everitt, Mrs. G. Vail, Mrs. L. J. Cockerton, Mrs. H. C. Holliday, Mrs. T. Hobbs, Mrs. J. Smith, Mrs. E. Everitt, Mrs. C. Gillson, Mrs. Lawrence, Mrs. F.

rendered void, and an old world spirit revived, the occasion will be long remembered by those who participated.

On Friday all the schoolchildren of Soham were entertained at the Regent Cinema with an interesting film, and for this pleasure all con-

The £5 At head O fori who play bon froli ing C chie fan pro hel dus the sing to Scr C vic the dis





Wife and Home

March

Mo

*"I
wanted
a baby"*

Fascinating Story
of Motherhood

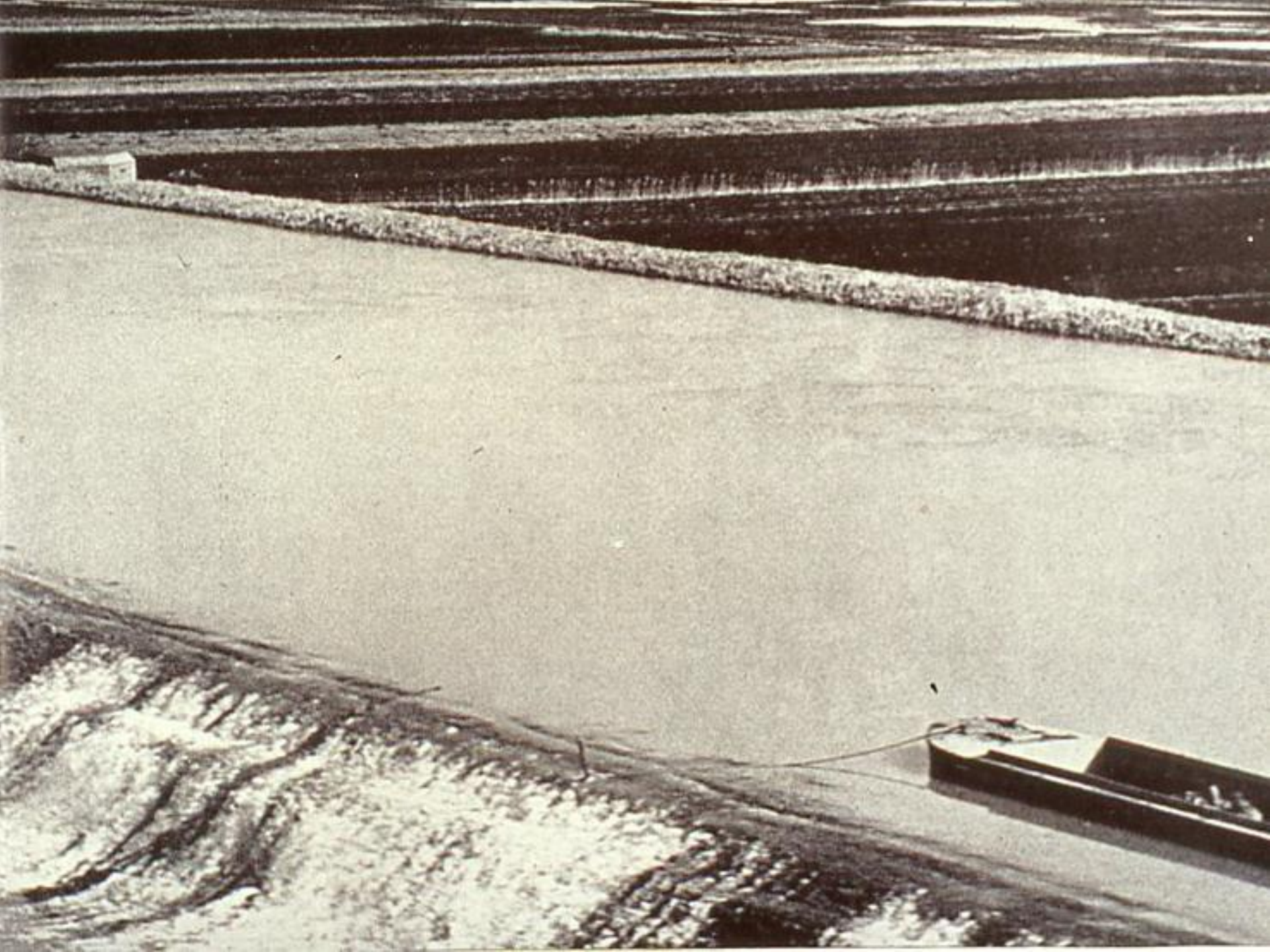




























THE FLOOD

THIS was the scene yesterday as efforts were made to close the gap in the north bank of the Little Ouse, near Hockwold, where floods

in this Fenland district have ruined thousands of acres of farm land. After working all day, 1,000 men closed the gap with sandbags.



A black and white photograph showing a riverbank. In the center, there is a large, dark, irregular pile of earth or debris. Handwritten in white on this pile is the text: "19TH MARCH '47." followed by a wavy line, and then "ON WISSEY BANK A FEW HOURS AFTER THE BURST." In the foreground on the right, the back of a person wearing a dark jacket and a cap is visible, looking towards the river. The river is turbulent with white water rapids. In the background, there are trees and a distant shoreline.

19TH MARCH '47.
ON WISSEY BANK A FEW
HOURS AFTER THE BURST.



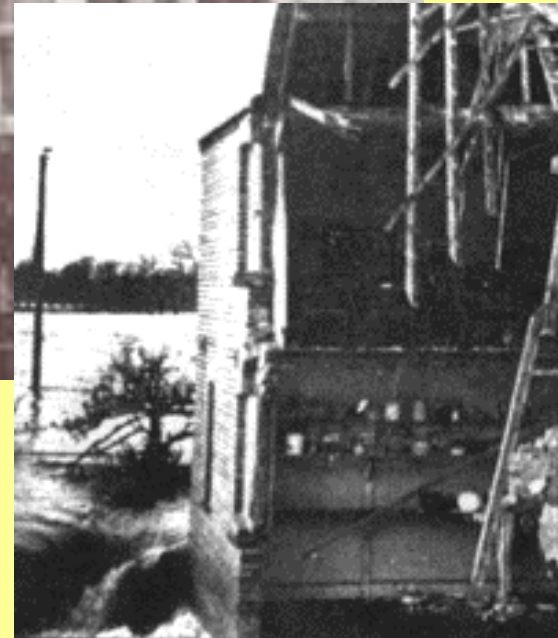
A FEW PM FRIDAY 21ST MARCH 1917
HOURS LATER THE
WATER SURGED ACROSS
TO SOUTHERY FEN.

1/3











THE LUCK OF SALLOWBY



*Malcolm
Saville*





Over 100 Sq. Miles of Fenland Flooded

90-FT. GAP IN OUSE BANK NEAR OVER

Haddenham Fen Inundated by Old West

SERIOUS BREACH IN THE WISSEY

FLOODS IN FENLAND ARE THE MOST WIDESPREAD AND DISASTROUS IN LIVING MEMORY, AND BREACHES IN THE RIVER BANKS ARE BECOMING WIDER.

By yesterday, the total area affected was more than 100 square miles.

Rivers have broken their banks at several points and threatened to burst at many more. Night and day, thousands of Fenmen, assisted by troops and German prisoners of war, have been pitting their efforts against the biggest flood threat of all time.

The first serious breach occurred in the Ouse near Over on Sunday night, and the rush of water has since torn the gap to about 90 feet.

This burst precipitated another crisis on Tuesday, this time at Haddenham Fen, where the Old West—which had previously suffered breaches at other points downstream—was unable to cope with the fast-running overflow from Over Fen and the bank broke again.

The entire Royal Engineer resources of Eastern Command have been mobilised in the fight.

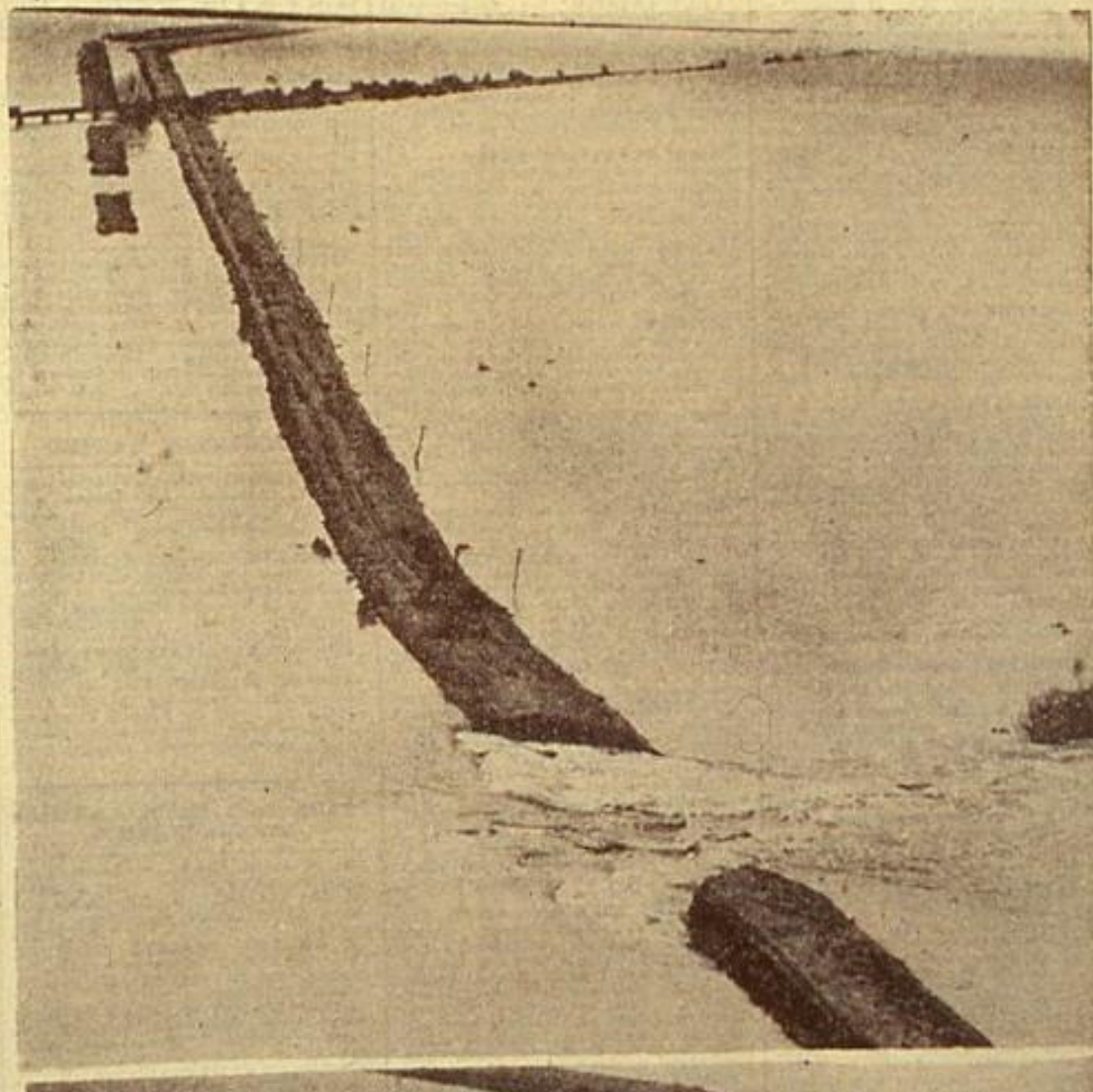
Working in the glare of searchlights, the sappers on Wednesday night began preparations to erect a Bailey bridge to bridge the gap. A light railway is being constructed on the downstream side of the breach as a preliminary to the main bridge.

was adding to the already critical position of the Old West. Fenmen and soldiers were feverishly labouring to "bag" the bank, but about 1 o'clock on Tuesday water began to pour over the bank at Haddenham in Hillrow Fen, and soon the bank "gave," threatening 3,000 acres there and a similar acreage at Wilburton.

By Wednesday the water covered miles and was feet deep. Aldreth was surrounded on three sides, and water from the Haddenham break was joining with the Cottenham Fen floods. Flood water in Haddenham North Fen was meeting water from Earith, and had reached Chivers' Farm at Aldreth.

The Earith road was reported to be under six feet of water in parts, and a portion of a bridge collapsed on Wednesday.

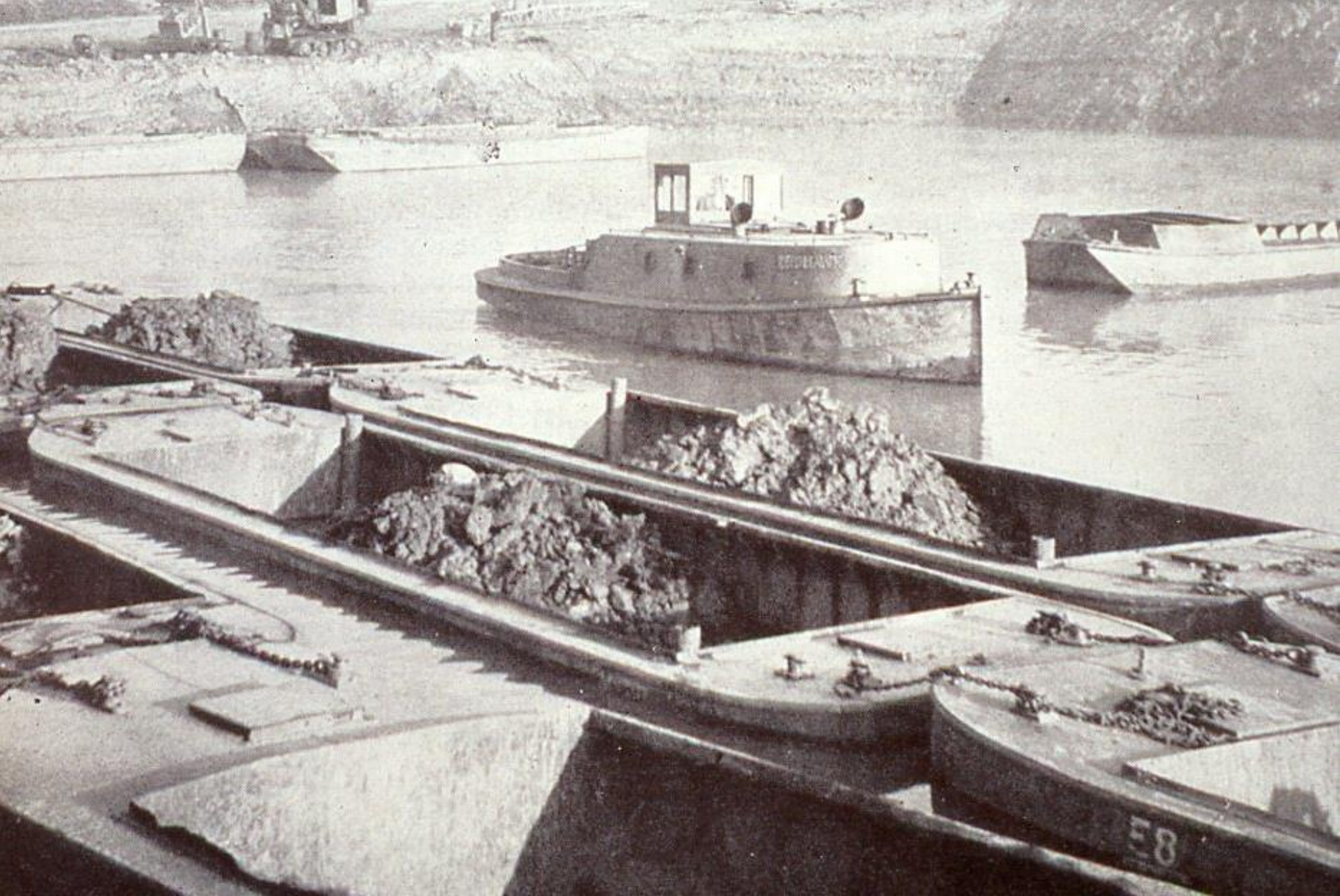
SPECIAL AERIAL PICTURES











Sealing the breach in the Wissey

MR. W. E. DORAN, Chief Engineer of Ouse Catchment Board, this week outlined the plan of campaign for dealing with the Wissey breach, which is 16 feet deep and 100 feet wide. Normal civil engineering methods would be used to tackle it.

The scheme was to dump clay in the hole and protect the clay with "mattresses," which would be built up in layers, he said. Bagging was being carried out at Sam's Cut to keep the water behind the breach. Hopper barges with doors in the bottom would be used, each carrying 60 to 80 tons of clay.

"Mr. Calis, the Dutch engineer, has been consulted. He entirely agrees," said Mr. Doran. "It is the same method as they use in Holland."

The mattress would be about 600 square yards, and would be made out of willow and brushwood. Five or 600 tons of slag would also be used.

"We have been using this method for many years, and have done a great deal of it," went on Mr. Doran. "The river walls at King's Lynn were built on this principle. It will take at least a fortnight before it is finished."

The mattresses are being made up at Denver Sluice and Lynn. They will be anchored in the gap and sunk by stone.

C.O. resigns

This picture gives a good idea of the vast area inundated. In the distance towards the left is Hockwold Fen, previously flooded by a break-through of the Little Ouse at Hockwold. Three Fenmen are seen setting out by punt in an effort to retrieve furniture in the water from the house that collapsed at the breach.

Southery Fen was previously flooded in 1915 and 1916 from breaks in the Little Ouse.

PLANS TO HELP HARD-HIT SOUTHERY SMALLHOLDERS

Concerned at the prospect of large-scale unemployment at Southery with so much of the land under water, local farmers are proposing to do everything they can to bring business to the village. One suggestion is that farmers in more fortunate parishes should place orders for goods, repairs and services in Southery.

Another is that landworkers unemployed because of the floods should be formed into gangs, and that farmers requiring gang labour should employ them before calling on German prisoners.

A practical step has been taken by Mr. G. Saunders and Mr. J. H. Brun. Mr. Saunders, on behalf of Wissington Farms, and Mr. Brun, on behalf of Weasenham Farms, have each offered 500 acres of land in Methwold Fen for occupation this year, the proposal being to divide the land into 10-acre holdings.

Holdings of this size will, it is suggested, be large enough to keep a smallholder and his family employed and to provide at least a bare living. The land of Wissington Farms is on Prospect Farm, near the Wissington sugar factory; that offered by Weasenham Farms is almost opposite Poppylot "Ship."

The flooded-out farmers and smallholders managed to save practically all their implements and much of their seeds and fertilisers, so that they would experience no great difficulties in re-starting on these new holdings. Any who wish to take advantage of the scheme should "communicate with Mr. Saunders and Mr. Brun."

Swaffham rate | This 'duck' sank

The good spirit of Southery folk

The fine spirit of self-reliance and co-operation displayed by the hard-hit people of Southery was warmly praised by Mr. F. W. J. Bates, vice-chairman of the Parish Council, in an interview.

"It is wonderful the way that everyone has worked and co-operated and given of their best," he told our correspondent.

Letters expressing sympathy with the flood victims have been received by Mr. W. J. Hyner, who was wartime evacuation officer, from several London people who were evacuated to Southery and the nearby villages during the war.

Homeless are in 'drome huts

WELL OVER a hundred people rendered homeless by the Southery floods have been found temporary homes in Nissen huts at Bexwell aerodrome, near Downham. They have been provided with American Red Cross cooking-stoves by the W.V.S.

Most of them brought their own beds, bedding, pots and pans, and much of their furni-







300 tons a minute. Huge pumps from Holland emptying the Haddenham fen.











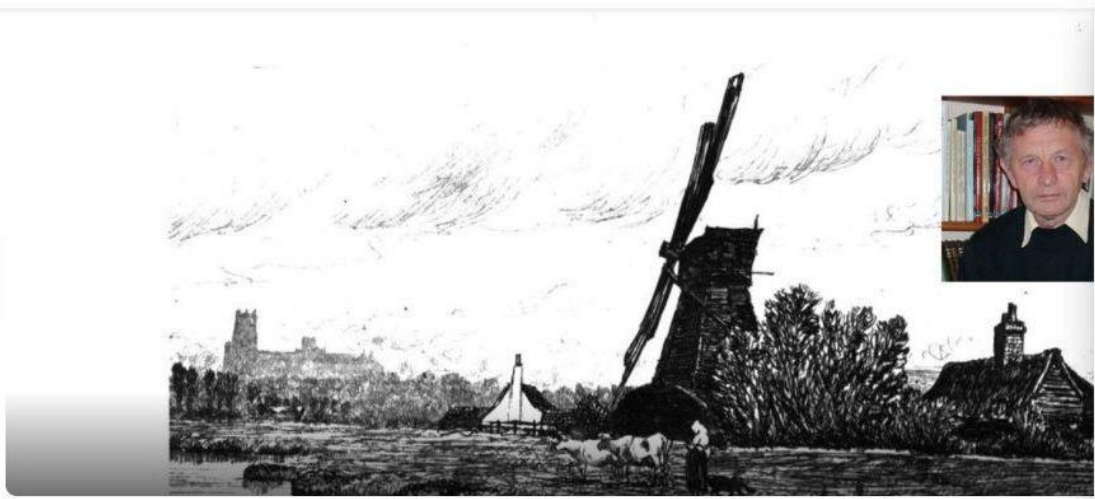








Fens in the 40's: two wars in one decade
by Mike Petty





Fenland History on Facebook


Public group · 7.5K members




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 Create a public post...

 Room

 Photo/Video

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Announcement · 1 [See all](#)


 **Mike Petty**
8 July 2020 · 

...

About









Fenland History on Facebook is a group created by Mike Petty that shares and discusses the history of the Cambridgeshire fens, including the Fenland area. ... [See more](#)

 **Public**
Anyone can see who's in the group and they post.

 **Visible**
Anyone can find this group.

Notifications

New

-  **Helen Marriott** uploaded a file in **Haddenham Community Hub (Cambs)**: "If anyone is thinking o...
[about an hour ago](#)
-  **Alison Denning, John Shead and 2 others** commented on your post in **Fenland History on Facebook**.
[about an hour ago](#)
-  **Rita Eustace, Maz Elaine and 6 others** commented on your photo in **Fenland History on Facebook**.
[4 hours ago](#)
-  **Martin Young, Steph Brown and Clive Goodge** commented on your photo in **Stretham & Grunty Fen...**
[4 hours ago](#)
-  **Karen Horn** shared your post in **Fenland History on Facebook**.
[24 minutes ago](#)
-  **Roland Cox and Ralph Carpenter** commented on your post in **Fenland History on Facebook**.
[2 hours ago](#)
-  **Roy Knight, Ken Woods and 15 others** like your post in **Fenland History on Facebook**.
[2 minutes ago](#)
-  **Roy Knight, James Porter and 6 others** like your post in **Fenland History on Facebook**.
[3 minutes ago](#)